NATION

Centre issues rules for transporting organs

≫ Page: 3 ≪

BUSINESS

India seeks duty concession in FTA with Sri Lanka

≫ Page: 5 ≪

SPORTS

Vandersay's 6/33 wrecks India as SL carve 32-run win

≫ Page: 6 ≪

www.twitter.com/EnglishSalar
www.facebook.com/EnglishSalar
www.instagram.com/dailysalarenglish
youtube.com/@dailysalardigital

SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in www.magzter.com 5 AUGUST 2024 | MONDAY | BENGALURU | 29 MUHARRAM, 1446 AH Vol 4 | Issue No 193 | Pages: 6

Due to unavoidable circumstances, today's edition of **SALAR DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY** will have only 6 pages. The inconvenience is regretted.

WE ARE HIRING

REPORTER
WEB-EDITOR
DESIGNER

Journalism degree preferred but not essential.

Reporter: 4-6 years experience.

Designer and web-editor: 2-4 years experience.

SEND YOUR CV TO:
hr.salarnews@gmail.com
anushreeirwin@gmail.com

Sreejesh steers India to Olympic semifinals

PARIS, 4 AUG

Battle-hardened PR Sreejesh emerged hero with a superb performance under the bar as the Indian men's hockey team beat Great Britain 4-2 in shoot-out to enter the semifinals and remain on course to win its second consecutive Olympic medal.

This was after India were reduced to 10 men after Amit Rohidas was shown a red card for raising his stick against a Great Britain player.

But the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist valiantly defended for close to 40 minutes to hold an attacking Great Britain 1-1 in regulation to to force a shootout.

Great Britain did not allow India to play ariel balls with man-to-man marking and the Indian team struggled throughout but still managed to escape without hurt.But veteran custodian Sreejesh, playing his last international tournament, stood like a rock in front of the Indian goal, making saves after saves.

Sreejesh stole the limelight in the shoot-out as well, blocking Connor Williamson and Phillip Ropper efforts after the score was 2-2. "Sreejesh always does that, saving us all the time," former captain Manpreet Singh said after the match.

Towards the end of the first quarter, India earned their first penaty corner but Harmanpreet could not trap the ball properly eack-to-back penalty corners but Harmanpreet failed to get past Payne from the second attempt. India will play the winner of quarterfinal match between Germany and Spain in the semifinals. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 6

Djokovic wins his 1st Olympics Gold

Novak Djokovic won his first Olympic gold medal by beating Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) in an enthralling men's tennis singles final Sunday, giving the 37-year-old from Serbia the last significant accomplishment missing from his glittering resume. Djokovic's impressive career already featured a men's-record 24 Grand Slam titles and the most weeks spent at No. 1 in the rankings by any man or woman. *—AP*

>>>More on Page 6

CENTRE SET TO AMEND 1995 WAKF LAW

Govt claims to usher in more transparency, gender diversity

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

The government is all set to bring a Bill in Parliament to amend the 1995 law governing Wakf boards to ensure more accountability and transparency in their functioning and mandatory inclusion of women in these bodies, sources said.

They claimed that the move comes in the backdrop of demands from within the Muslim community.

The Bill to amend the Wakf Act, 1995, will make it mandatory for Wakf boards to register their properties with district collectors to ensure their actual valuation. There are 30 Wakf boards in the country.

The sources on Sunday pointed out that the revenue generated by all Wakf properties is estimated at Rs 200 crore per annum. This is not in sync with the number of properties such bodies have, they said.

The revenue generated by all Wakf properties is estimated at Rs 200 crore per annum **PHOTO: PTI**

Originally, Wakf boards had around 52,000 properties throughout India. By 2009, there were 3,00,000 registered Wakf properties covering four lakh acres of land, and as on date, there are 8,72,292 such properties in more than eight lakh acres of land.

While referring to the revenue generated by such bodies, the sources underlined that the money can only be used for the welfare of the Muslim community.

The amendment Bill with as many as 40 changes in the current law could be brought in the ongoing Parliament session. The government, as of now, does not plan to leave the Bill pending in Parliament after introduction.

The key changes proposed in the law include ensuring verification of land before a board announces it as Wakf property.

"There have been demands from within the community to amend the law to bring transparency and accountability ...some Muslim high court judges had flagged that the decision taken by Wakf boards cannot be challenged in courts."

Reacting to the move to amend the law, senior BJP leader Dinesh Sharma said Bohra and other members of the Muslim community have raised the issue of anomalies by Wakf boards. The main reason behind this is that there have been complaints against Wakf boards, made for benefitting the minorities, being involved in other works, he claimed. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

HITS OUT AT BJP-JD(S)

Cong backs K'taka CM amid allegations

BENGALURU, 4 AUG

Strongly backing its Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is on the Opposition's radar in the MUDA and state-run Valmiki Corporation "scams", Congress on Sunday said it would explain the truth to the people and fight unitedly against efforts to destabilise its government.

Congress General Secretary in-charge of Organisation KC Venugopal held a meeting with ministers, along with AICC General Secretary in-charge of the State Randeep Singh Surjewala, CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also the party's State chief.

The meeting comes in the wake of Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot issuing a show cause notice to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, which is seen as a precursor to giving sanction to his prosecution in the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment 'scam'.

Siddaramaiah **PHOTO: FB**

"Everybody knows the honesty of Siddaramaiah. He is not a new chief minister here. Everybody knows his career, where he started, where he is now, also his ideology and his background."

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, he said the BJP and JD(S) are aware that the Congress government's guarantee schemes to address the concerns of the poor people will harm them politically, and so they are targeting the government and the chief minister. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 2

Nipah detected in bat samples from Kerala

T'PURAM, 4 AUG

The presence of the Nipah virus has been detected in bat samples collected from Pandikkad in Kerala's Malappuram district, where the death of a 14-year-old boy due to the infection was reported on 21 June. According to Health Minister Veena George, antibodies were found in six out of 27 fruit bat samples collected within a five-kilometre radius.. A total of 472 people are on the contact list, and 261 individuals who have completed the mandatory 21-day isolation period have been removed from the list, she added. *—PTI*

TN farmers protest, seek steps to store surplus water

TAMIL NADU, 4 AUG

Farmers of the Cauvery delta areas on Sunday staged a protest here seeking steps to prevent the flow of surplus water from the river into the sea, and demanded that barrages and a dam be constructed instead. Led by farmer leader PR Pandian, the crop cultivators demanded that the state government construct a barrage every 5 km across Kollidam river (the northern distributary of the Cauvery) so that surplus Cauvery water would not drain into the sea. They also urged that a dam be constructed near Hogenakkal. . *—PTI*

'HEART-BREAKING'

MP: 9 children die in wall collapse

SAGAR, 4 AUG

Nine children were killed and two others injured after a wall of a dilapidated house collapsed in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district on Sunday, a senior official said.

The incident occurred between 8.30am and 9am near the campus of a temple during a religious programme in Shahpur village under the Rehli assembly seat, as per officials.

PMO, in a message on X, informed that the prime minister had announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF for the next of kin of each deceased, while the injured would be given Rs 50,000.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav also announced assistance of Rs 4 lakh to the kin of each of the deceased.

> **The incident caused by the wall collapse in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh is heart-breaking. My condolences to the bereaved families of the children who lost their lives in this incident. May God give them strength to bear this pain. I wish speedy recovery of all the injured**
>
> -Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

He suspended the chief municipal officer (CMO) of Shahpur Nagar Panchayat and a sub-engineer and directed civil bodies across the state to identify dilapidated buildings and take action.

The children got crushed under the tent and debris, he said. *—PTI*

7 killed in bus car collision in UP's Etawah

ETAWAH, 4 AUG

Seven people were killed and 25 injured early Sunday when the bus they were on fell into a ditch after a collision on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway in the Usrahar area here, police said.

Superintendent of Police Sanjay Kumar told reporters that a bus with Nagaland number plate was on its way to Delhi from Rae Bareli, when at around 12.45 am it collided with a car coming from the wrong lane. *—PTI*

91 killed as protesters & ruling party clash in B'desh

DHAKA, 4 AUG

At least 91 people, including 14 policemen, were killed and hundreds injured on Sunday in fierce clashes between protesters demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation and the ruling party supporters in different parts of Bangladesh on the first day of the non-cooperation movement over a government jobs quota system.

The clashes broke out this morning when protesters attending the non-cooperation programme under the banner of the Students Against Discrimination with the one-point demand of the government's resignation faced opposition from the supporters of the Awami League, Chhatra League, and Jubo League activists.

Deadly clashes in Bangladesh, on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

As violence escalated, the Home Ministry imposed an indefinite countrywide curfew from 6 pm on Sunday. A government agency has ordered the shutdown of Meta platforms Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp and Instagram. The mobile operators were ordered to shut down 4G internet.

Those causing sabotage are terrorists: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that those engaging in sabotage in the name of protest across the country are not students but terrorists.

"I appeal to the countrymen to suppress these terrorists with a firm hand," she said in a meeting of the National Committee on Security Affairs at Ganabhaban on Sunday, according to sources from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). *—PTI/ Dhaka Tribune*

>>>More on Page 4

Maharashtra to poll bugle on Rajiv's anniversary: Cong

MUMBAI, 4 AUG

The Congress will launch its efforts to carve out its strategy and galvanise the cadre for the Maharashtra polls on the birth anniversary of late prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, said senior party leader Ramesh Chennithala on Sunday. Rajiv Gandhi was born in Mumbai on 20 August, 1944. AICC in-charge of Maharashtra said their Maha Vikas Aghadi allies Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray and NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar have been invited for the event in Mumbai that will also be attended by their top leaders Kharge etc. *—PTI*

Wayanad reels under landslide, toll rises to 369

WAYANAD, 4 AUG

The death toll in the Wayanad landslide in Kerala on Sunday reached 369, said officials. BJP on Sunday responded to demands from various quarters, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, to declare the devastating Wayanad landslides a national disaster, saying that such a concept doesn't exist under Central government guidelines, a policy unchanged since the UPA government's tenure.

Senior party leader V Muraleedharan posted on his Facebook page a 2013 Parliament document in which then Minister of State for Home, Mullappally Ramachandran, stated that "there is no provision to declare a natural disaster as a national disaster."

Kalpetta Range forest officers rescue a family **PHOTO: PTI**

Meanwhile, Dubai-based, PNC Menon, Founder and Chairman of Sobha Group, who hails from Palakkad, has pledged to build 50 homes worth Rs 10 crore for Wayanad landslide survivors. The death toll due to floods in Himachal has increased to 13. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 3

'Assam to bring law on lifer in 'love jihad' cases'

GUWAHATI, 4 AUG

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said his government will soon introduce a law for life imprisonment in cases of 'love jihad'.

He also said several measures have been initiated to "protect" the land rights and government jobs for indigenous people.

The term 'love jihad' is used by right-wing groups to allege a ploy by Muslim men to lure Hindu women into religious conversion through marriage. *—PTI*

'NEGATIVE IMPACT'

1 in 4 countries have banned use of smartphones in schools: UN report

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Large-scale international assessment data suggests a negative link between excessive use of technology and student performance, yet less than one in four countries have banned smartphone use in schools, according to the Global Education Monitoring (GEM) report.

The report on "Technology in education" published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has flagged that assessment data has found that mere proximity to a mobile device distracts students and has a negative impact on learning.

PHOTO: PIXABAY

An expert from the UN's Education team told PTI that too much attention on technology in education usually comes at a high cost, and technology, including smartphones, should only be used in class when it supports learning outcomes.

UNESCO has flagged that use of devices by students beyond a moderate threshold may have a negative impact on academic performance as the use of smartphones and computers disrupts classroom and home learning activity.

The experts noted that a clash between machines and humans has surfaced in the context of debates over generative artificial intelligence, the implications of which for education are only gradually emerging.

—PTI

Will work towards bringing back BJP-JD(S) coalition, says HDK

Meanwhile, Kumaraswamy says there is no question of going back to Cong

BENGALURU, 4 AUG

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday said he will work together with the leaders and workers of the BJP and JD(S) to bring back an NDA government in the state.

There is no question of his party joining hands with the Congress once again, the JD(S) State President said.

The JD(S) had been in power twice in the state, in coalition with both national parties, despite being a junior partner -- for 20 months with BJP from February 2006 and for 14 months with the Congress after the May 2018 assembly polls. Kumaraswamy was the chief minister on both occasions.

Ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, JD(S) joined hands with BJP and became a part of the NDA.

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy with BJP State President BY Vijayendra, during padayatra for on Sunday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

"I appeal to BJP and JD(S) workers to work together. Who should become chief minister is not important to me. With your blessings I have been the chief minister of the state twice. Welfare and development of the state and its people are important for me," Kumaraswamy said.

Addressing workers of the BJP and JD(S), ahead of the second day of a week-long protest march from Bengaluru to Mysuru against the MUDA 'scam', he said, "I will work for your sake in the days ahead with the aim of bringing back the BJP-JD(S) coalition government." "Our fight is ultimately to bring in a pro-people government in the state, which will look after the welfare of every family. We want to bring such a government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. For that, myself, BY Vijayendra (BJP state president) and all leaders and workers from both parties will work together," he added. Speaking about his experience of running the government with Congress party he said, "There is no question of going to Congress in my life." In 2006, Kumaraswamy had rebelled and walked out of the JD(S)-Congress coalition with 42 MLAs, reportedly against the wishes of his father former PM and JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda, citing a threat to the party. He then formed the government with BJP, becoming the chief minister during his very first term as MLA. Yediyurappa was the deputy chief minister.

—PTI

BJP-JD(S) continue protest against scam

RAMANAGARA, 4 AUG

- A large number of workers and leaders from both parties were seen marching, shouting slogans against Siddaramaiah and the Congress government led by him, holding BJP and JD(S) flags and placards, amidst drum beats

The Opposition BJP and JD(S), on Sunday continued their week-long protest march from Bengaluru to Mysuru for the second day, against alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority site allotment scam, seeking to corner the Congress government and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The 'Mysuru Chalo padayatre' against the alleged fraudulent allotment of sites to land losers by MUDA, including to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi and demanding his resignation -- on the second day, began at Bidadi here and is scheduled to cover a distance of 22km to reach Kengal.

BJP State President and MLA BY Vijayendra, JD(S) State President and Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy, Opposition Leader in Legislative Council Chalavadhi Narayanswamy, JD(S) leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy, several legislators, leaders and workers from both parties took part.

A large number of workers and leaders from both parties were seen marching, shouting slogans against Siddaramaiah and the Congress government led by him, holding BJP and JD(S) flags and placards, amidst drum beats.

The stretch through which the march passed was decked up with flags of both parties, buntings and portraits of prominent leaders at several places.

Vijayendra said the ruling Congress, Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar are "trembling", following the Opposition's protest march. *—PTI*

HDK expert in blackmails and 'hit & run' tactics, says DyCM

CHANNAPATNA, 4 AUG

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar hit out at Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy over the source of his family's wealth, questioning whether it was possible to amass thousands of crore solely through farming.

Speaking at the Janandolana event in Channapatna on Sunday, Shivakumar criticised Kumaraswamy's claims of being a simple farmer and demanded transparency about the alleged properties owned by his family.

Shivakumar also took a jab at Kumaraswamy's political moves, suggesting that his attempts to join forces with BJP were a desperate measure to maintain relevance. He accused Kumaraswamy of being an expert in "hit and run" tactics, blackmail, and chameleon.

He accused Kumaraswamy of filing baseless cases against his family and remarks on Supreme Court's dismissal of those cases.

Deputy Chief Minister also criticised BJP and JD(S) for their padayatra, labelling it as a ploy to distract from BJP's 25 corruption scandals. He highlighted previous corruption allegations against BJP, including scams like Keonics and PSI scam, and demanded accountability from BJP leaders.

He also sought to know about Kumaraswamy's elder brother HD Balakrishna Gowda, and his family's assets.

DK Shivakumar *PHOTO: PTI*

- Shivakumar also took a jab at Kumaraswamy's political moves, suggesting that his attempts to join forces with BJP were a desperate measure to maintain relevance

Shivakumar also urged voters to support Congress. He said, "Whoever may be the candidate in Channapatna, your vote should go to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. Congress symbol is the real candidate. I will work for this constituency as a legislator, give me an opportunity. Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan has agreed to sanction 5000 homes to the people of Channapatna. Besides, we are also identifying land for sites to be allotted. DK Suresh may have lost but you have given 80,000 votes from this Assembly segment. There is no question of leaving people of Channapatana."

—Salar News

A FRIENDLY GESTURE

The Cubbon Park Walkers' Association observed Friendship Day in Bengaluru on Sunday by paying tributes to those who lost their lives in the recent floods and landslides in Karnataka and Kerala. The first Sunday of August is observed as Friendship Day *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

Rly Minister flags off Vande Bharat Express at Yadgir

BENGALURU, 4 AUG

V Somanna, Minister of State for Railways inaugurated Train No 22232 SMVT Bengaluru – Kalaburagi Vande Bharat Express with additional stoppage at Yadgir Railway Station in Yadgir, on Sunday. Vande Bharat Express will depart from Yadgir towards Bengaluru and return to Kalaburagi, providing a full-day journey with AC Chair Car and Executive Class options. The additional stoppage will be effective from 5 August, 2024, for the Bengaluru-Kalaburagi route and 6 August, 2024, for the Kalaburagi-Bengaluru route. The minister also announced that an action plan is in place to manufacture 10,000 General Class coaches to enhance travel comfort for general passengers. Speaking at the event Somanna said, "The railway budget for Karnataka for 2024-25 has been significantly increased to Rs 7,560 crore, compared to previous years. The national budget for Indian Railways this year stands at Rs 2.62 lakh crore."*—Salar News*

Bommai accuses Cong for misusing Raj Bhavan

BENGALURU, 4 AUG

Former Chief Minister and BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai has accused Congress of frequently misusing Raj Bhavan to topple governments nationwide. Speaking to the media on Sunday, Bommai claimed that Congress has used Raj Bhavan over 56 times for such purposes. He referred to the controversial Governor Hansraj Bharadwaj, who, despite having no case against senior leader BS Yediyurappa, permitted his prosecution, which was later dismissed. Bommai questioned whether Congress would apologise for this. Bommai criticised the current government for institutionalising corruption through transfer rackets. He said, "The government and its MLAs were profiting from transfer deals and said that this corruption has created immense pressure on government employees. Such systemic corruption has contributed to the distress and deaths of government employees who are forced to pay bribes." *—Salar News*

ABETMENT TO SUICIDE

Govt assures compensation, govt job to wife of Dalit PSI

BENGALURU, 4 AUG

Karnataka government has decided to provide government job and compensation to the wife of deceased Dalit Sub-Inspector Parashuram, on Sunday.

Speaking to the media on Sunday, Home Minister G Parameshwara stated, "The case has been handed over to CID for investigation. The cause of death will be determined after the post-mortem report. The government has decided to provide government job and compensation to Parashuram's wife."

A case was registered against Congress MLA Channareddy Tannur and his son Pampanagouda Tannur based on a complaint

PHOTO: ANI

by Parashuram's wife, Shwetha NV. The charges include intentional insult with intent to provoke a breach of peace, abetment of suicide, and criminal liability.

Shwetha alleged that the father-son duo demanded Rs 30 lakh from her husband to allow him to continue in his position. She mentioned that Parashuram was distraught after his transfer and expressed suicidal thoughts. While Shwetha, who is pregnant, was at her parents' home in Raichur for her delivery, she learned that Parashuram had been hospitalised and later died by suicide.

Ambedkar Human Rights Kranti Sena has demanded the arrest of the MLA and his son, warning that if no action is taken, thousands of Dalit community leaders, thinkers, and pro-Kannada activists will protest in front of Director General of Police's office next week. They urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to ensure a CBI probe into the death to ensure justice is served. *—Salar News*

False campaign to discredit LS polls : EC

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

The Election Commission on Sunday rejected the analysis by a citizens' platform about unusually big difference between voter turnout figures declared initially and the final figures in the Lok Sabha elections, and said a "false campaign" is being run to discredit the polls.

The development comes a day after the Congress on Saturday cited a report by 'Vote for Democracy' which has raised questions about substantial hike in the Lok Sabha voting turnout percentages and urged the EC to address the concerns.

The report had said there is an unusually big difference between the voter turnout figures declared initially and the final figures, especially in some states such as Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

In a series of posts on X, the EC said, "False campaign is being run by some (other than candidates) in furtherance of

PHOTO: PTI

- In a series of posts on X, the EC said, "False campaign is being run by some (other than candidates) in furtherance of design to discredit largest elections ever held in the history of mankind in most transparent manner involving candidates/ stakeholders at every stage of elections"

design to discredit largest elections ever held in the history of mankind in most transparent manner involving candidates/ stakeholders at every stage of elections."

It said "unfounded attempts" were made to compare approx turnout figures at 7pm on poll day when many polling stations might be closing poll or voters waiting in queue with 'End of Poll' turnout available a day after poll day.

The EC said electoral data and outcomes are strictly as per statutory forms and procedures under the electoral law.

"While legitimate means to challenge an electoral outcome by a candidate or elector is through an election petition, no election petition is reportedly filed on such grounds," it said.

An election petition (EP) can be filed within 45 days of the announcement of results.

The EC said a lesser number of EPs have been reportedly filed in 79 seats in 2024 as against 138 EPs in the 2019 parliamentary polls. *—PTI*

AMID DISASTROUS LANDSLIDES

Task Force to clear encroachments in WGhats

BENGALURU, 4 AUG

The State government has constituted the 'Western Ghat Forest Encroachment Task Force' to clear illegal resorts, homestays, and other forest encroachments across the Western Ghats and other Ghat regions covering 10 districts.

Forest Minister Eshwara Khandre announced the establishment of the task force in Mysuru, Udupi, Kodagu, Chamarajnagar, Hassan, Belagavi, Uttar Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Shivamogga, and Chikkamagalur.

This decision comes in response to the recent landslides in Shirur and Wayanad, which have caused significant loss of life and property. In Shirur, at least eight people died, and three others went missing after a massive landslide struck the village on 16 July. In Kerala's Wayanad, at least 357 people were killed following a devastating landslide. Khandre highlighted these events as a dire warning about the need to protect the Western Ghats, noting that environmental neglect has severe consequences.

Khandre had on Friday directed the forest department's additional chief secretary to issue orders for the removal of all forest encroachments that have sprung up after 2015 in the western ghats region, and to submit an action taken report in a month's time.

This decision comes in response to the landslides in Shirur and Wayanad, which have caused significant loss of life and property *PHOTO: PTI*

Khandre noted that clear instructions have been given to initiate clearance operations in cases where the 64A (of the Karnataka Forest Act) process, regarding forest encroachment post-2015, will be imposed. This process involves the penalty for unauthorised possession of land constituted as reserved forest, district forest, village forest, protected forest, and any other land under the control of the Forest Department.

Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Conservator of Forests (CF), Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF), Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF) are allowed to inquire into forest encroachment cases and issue orders under 64A. Officers above the rank of ACF have been instructed to conduct proceedings in their respective zones two days a week and issue prompt orders.

Khandre said, "The task force will operate under the leadership of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of the Forest Task Force, commencing the forest encroachment clearance operation immediately, and they will submit a report in a month on the encroachments."

Meanwhile, Khandre highlighted the environmental destruction caused by the unscientific cutting of hills at 90 degrees during road upgrades in the Western Ghat region, leading to landslides and collapses. *—Salar News*

Vijayan urges CM to resume search for missing man

T'PURAM, 4 AUG

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan visited the house of Arjun, a lorry driver who went missing in the landslide at Shirur, Karnataka, on Sunday.

He also sent a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, requesting the resumption of the search operation for Arjun.

"Dear Siddaramaiah ji, today, I visited the family of Arjun, who went missing in the Shirur district of Karnataka. I write this to share the anxiety and sorrow of Arjun's family, as he has been missing for quite a long time. I understand that the search operations to find Arjun were to be resumed today. However, information indicates that the operations have not yet resumed. I request your kind personal intervention for the resumption of the search operations today itself," Vijayan wrote in the letter.

"Wrote to Karnataka Chief Minister @Siddaramaiah Ji to share the anxiety and sorrow of Arjun's family, who went missing in the Shirur district of Karnataka. Requested his intervention for the resumption of the search operations, which were scheduled to restart today but have not yet begun," Vijayan wrote in a post on X.

PHOTO: PTI

- As heavy rainfall led to massive devastation in southern India, Arjun, a lorry driver from Kerala travelling from Ankola to Kerala, went missing on 16 July

As heavy rainfall led to massive devastation in southern India, Arjun, a lorry driver from Kerala travelling from Ankola to Kerala, went missing on 16 July.

The search and rescue operations in Kerala's Wayanad entered their sixth day on Sunday, as several people are still feared trapped in the debris.

Wayanad District Collector Meghashree told ANI that the rescue operation is in full swing, with over 1,300 forces deployed today. *—ANI*

Forest department officers rescue children from a landslide-affected area of Wayanad district; The National Disaster Response Force personnel conduct a search and rescue operation for the sixth consecutive day PHOTOS: PTI/ANI

Wayanad tragedy: 16 of a family gone, only four bodies recovered

Search ops are ongoing in Mundakkai, Punchirimattam, Chooralmalath

WAYANAD, 4 AUG

With the search for missing persons in the landslide-ravaged areas of Wayanad now in its sixth day, the personal nightmares of the affected people are becoming increasingly clear.

For Mansoor, a 42-year-old resident of Chooralmala, the 30 July landslide has brought unimaginable loss, as he struggles to come to terms with the scale of the tragedy. In a heart-wrenching tale of devastation, Mansoor lost 16 members of his family, including his mother, wife, two children, sister, and 11 members of his sister-in-law's family.

"We've found four bodies: my wife, son, sister, and my mom. I still haven't found my daughter. I wasn't there when the incident happened because I was out for work. I have nothing left now. I'm currently staying with my brother," Mansoor said.

Nasir, the brother of Mansoor, described the devastating impact of the recent tragedy on their family. Meanwhile, the death toll in the Wayanad landslide in Kerala on Sunday reached 369, said officials. —*PTI*

River Chaliyar's serene waters turns deadly after landslides

WAYANAD, 4 AUG

The Chaliyar River, a lifeline for people in three Kerala districts, has become a haunting symbol of destruction after landslides ravaged Wayanad on July 30. For generations, the 169-km river has nourished the lives of those living along its banks in Wayanad, Malappuram, and Kozhikode. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Tharoor reacts to 'memorable' row after Wayanad visit

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has put out the definition of "memorable" to hit back at those criticising him for using the word in a social media post on the Wayanad landslide relief works he participated in.

Hitting back at the trolls, Tharoor said in a post late Friday, "For all the trolls: definition of 'memorable': Something that is memorable is worth remembering or likely to be remembered, because it is special or unforgettable." —*PTI*

BJP rejects 'national disaster' status for Wayanad landslides

T'PURAM, 4 AUG

BJP on Sunday responded to demands from various quarters, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, to declare the devastating Wayanad landslides a national disaster, saying that such a concept doesn't exist under Central government guidelines, a policy unchanged since the UPA government's tenure.

Senior party leader V Muraleedharan posted on his Facebook page a 2013 Parliament document in which then Minister of State for Home, Mullappally Ramachandran, stated that "there is no provision to declare a natural disaster as a national disaster."

He said immediately after the disaster, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Rs 2 lakh for the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the families of those injured from the National Disaster Relief Fund.

The Prime Minister personally called Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and offered all support, the BJP leader said.

Meanwhile, search operations are ongoing in the worst-affected regions of Mundakkai, Punchirimattam, and Chooralmala. —*PTI*

● Senior party leader V Muraleedharan posted on his Facebook page a 2013 Parliament document in which then Minister of State for Home, Mullappally Ramachandran, stated that "there is no provision to declare a natural disaster as a national disaster."

373 people evacuated from rain-hit Kedarnath

RUDRAPRAYAG, 4 AUG

Over 370 people, including devotees, stranded on the rain-ravaged trek route to Kedarnath, have been evacuated and sent to Lincholi to be airlifted as the rescue operation entered its fourth day on Sunday.

So far, more than 10,000 people have been rescued from Kedarnath, Bhimbali and Gaurikund.

Chief Executive Officer of Shri Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee Yogendra Singh said that these 373 people who left from Kedarnath with rescuers, including teams of SDRF and NDRF, for Lyncholi will be airlifted to safer places via helicopter.

Meanwhile, 570 passengers are also waiting for the helicopter at Kedarnath helipad.

According to officials, 110 pilgrims stranded on the Rambada-Chaumasi track have also been evacuated and taken to Chaumasi. More than 534 pilgrims and locals have been evacuated from this route so far.

The trek route to Kedarnath suffered extensive damage as a result of a cloudburst in Junglechatti near Lincholi on Wednesday night.

Roads were washed away at many places, including Lyncholi, Bhimbali, Ghorapadav and Rambada, At some other locations, roads were damaged due to landslides and large stones falling from the hill, due to which pilgrims were stranded at many places. —*PTI*

HP cloudbursts: Death toll rises to 13, search ops on

SHIMLA, 4 AUG

The death toll due to flash floods triggered by cloudbursts in three districts of Himachal Pradesh has increased to 13 with the recovery of two more bodies from Mandi district. Over 40 people are still missing after a series of cloudbursts occurred in Kullu's Nirmand, Sainj and Malana, Mandi's Padhar and Shimla's Rampur subdivision on the night of 31 July and wreaked havoc. —*PTI*

Man mauled to death by wild sloth bear in Ch'garh

GAURELA, 4 AUG

A 28-year-old man was killed and two others were seriously injured after they were attacked by a wild sloth bear in Chhattisgarh's Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi district on Sunday, police said. The incident took place this morning near Badraudi village when deceased Chhablal along with Ghasiram, 45, and Santlal, 42, went to collect wood to celebrate a local festival, said Marwahi Division Forest Officer Raunak Goyal. "After coming face to face with the bear, the three tried to confront it. Chhablal was mauled to death, while Ghasiram and Santlal sustained critical injuries. The injured persons were shifted to the community health centre in Marwahi and then to Bilaspur for advanced treatment," Goyal said. The kin of the deceased will be given compensation as per state government rules, officials said. —*PTI*

2 minors rescued from brothel in Delhi, two arrested

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Delhi Police has rescued two girls who were allegedly being made to work in a brothel in the GB Road area by portraying them as adults using forged Aadhar cards, officials said on Sunday. The police said that two people, including one woman, has been arrested in connection with the incident. The girls were recovered during a routine check in the area on the intervening night of 16 and 17 July by SHO of Kamla Market police station at a brothel house for inspection, they found two girls who duo appeared to be minors and were unable to give proper responses to the police personnel's questions. Upon counselling, it was revealed that the girls had come to the brothel with one Kiran Devi a year ago and two people, Rishi and Sanjay, had brought them to her, the officer said. The police arrested accused Devi and Ram. —*PTI*

12-YEAR-OLD ABUSED

BJP delegation meets Ayodhya rape survivor's kin

AYODHYA, 4 AUG

A three-member BJP delegation on Sunday met the family members of the 12-year-old girl who was raped here and held a "detailed discussion".

The team gathered information about the incident from the rape survivor's family members and will submit a report on the matter to K Laxman, the national President of BJP's OBC Morcha, Rajya Sabha MP Baburam Nishad said after the meeting.

BJP leaders, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, have alleged that Moid Khan, the prime accused in the gangrape case of the girl, is a member of Samajwadi Party (SP) and part of the team of Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad.

The delegation that met the girl's family on Sunday also comprised Rajya Sabha MP Sangeeta Balwant Bind and UP's Minister of State (Independent Charge) Backward Class Welfare Narendra Kashyap, according to Baburam Nishad.

PHOTO: PTI

He said, "We held a detailed discussion with the mother of the rape survivor, and also with other people, and gather detailed information."

"Whatever action has to be taken from the side of the government, it is being done. We have also gathered other information about him (accused Moid Khan). We will go to its bottom, and conduct a probe," the MP added. —*PTI*

Centre admits to zero funds to WB for MNREGA: O'Brien

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Citing a reply in the Rajya Sabha by the government to a question on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), TMC MP Derek O'Brien on Sunday claimed the BJP-led Centre in its response has "finally" accepted that West Bengal has been given "zero" funds under the 100-day rural employment guarantee scheme.

TMC and its Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee have been demanding a white paper on the scheme to prove what the Centre had paid to West Bengal since BJP's loss in the 2021 state Assembly polls, Rajya Sabha member O'Brien said on X. "Finally! Modi govt admits inside Parliament that Bengal's been given zero for MNREGA funds," O'Brien said in a post on X, sharing the 26 July reply that gave state and UT-wise data of the last five financial years on the number of households that have completed 100 days of employment under MGNREGS.

In the first Covid wave year of 2020-21, the figure was 6,78,633, and in 2019-20, it was 3,65,683, it said. —*PTI*

'Criminal laws biggest reform of 21st century'

CHANDIGARH, 4 AUG

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday dubbed three new criminal laws as the "biggest" reform of the 21st century, saying their objective is to ensure people get justice.

He also said after the complete implementation of these laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) -- India will have the most modern and technology-equipped criminal justice system in the world. Shah was addressing a gathering after launching the e-evidence, Nyay Setu, Nyay Shruti and e-summon systems to augment the criminal justice apparatus here. Shah said Chandigarh will be the first administrative unit in the country where hundred per cent implementation of all the three laws will be completed in the next two months. —*PTI*

Amit Shah PHOTO: PTI

₹239 crore aid for violence-hit Tripura's Gandatwisa

AGARTALA, 4 AUG

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Sunday announced a package of Rs 239.10 crore for the development of the violence-hit Gandatwisa subdivision.

About 145 families were rendered homeless in Gandatwisa after clashes broke out between two groups of people following the death of a college student on 12 July.

Saha said the government has decided to provide an additional Rs 4 lakh to Reang's family, besides Rs 6 lakh already given to them. —*PTI*

OWAISI SLAMS CENTRE OVER PROPOSAL TO CURB WAQF POWERS

HYDERABAD, 4 AUG

Amid media reports that the Centre is likely to introduce a bill to curb the "unfettered" powers of waqf boards, AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi on Sunday alleged that the NDA government wants to take away the autonomy of the waqf board.

BJP has been against waqf boards and waqf properties "from the beginning" and it has made attempts to finish waqf properties and waqf board as per its "Hindutva agenda", he claimed.

Asaduddin Owaisi PHOTO: PTI

The proposed amendments, show that the "Modi governments wants to take away the autonomy of waqf board. It wants to interfere ... how to run waqf property. That itself is against freedeom of religion," he told reporters here.

If any amendments are made, there will be "administrative chaos" and the waqf board would lose its autonomy, he said. —*PTI*

EASING THE TASK

Centre issues rules for transporting organs

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

The Union Health Ministry has come out with its first-ever SOPs for seamless transport of human organs through various modes of travel, which will allow airlines carrying them to request the Air Traffic Control for priority take-off and landing and also arrange front-row seats.

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for organ transplant will serve as a guiding document for those involved in organs transplants across the country and are aimed at ensuring maximum utilisation.

According to the SOPs for transportation by air, airlines carrying human cadaveric organs can request the Air Traffic Control for priority take-off and landing of the aircraft and arrange front-row seats.

The Standard Operating Procedure will serve as a guiding document for those involved in organs transplants across the country PHOTO: PTI

The source airport will inform and communicate to the destination airport to facilitate the arrival process, according to the SOPs.

Airport officials should define a "green corridor" – free from obstruction – and a trolley for the organ box from ambulance to the aircraft at the airport of origin and vice versa.

According to the SOPs, to facilitate transport of organs by ambulance and other vehicles, the "green corridor" may be provided for organ transport on the request of specific authorities or agencies.

To facilitate the transfer of organs by metro, the Metro Traffic Control should accord priority transit for the metro carrying live human organs for transplant. The metro security staff should escort the clinical team carrying the organ box till their boarding at the metro station, it said.

Organ box should be kept in correct position and orientation i.e. upright straight vertical at 90 degrees to the surface during transport, and label of "handle with care" can be put on the organ box, it said. —*PTI*

BSP disagrees with top court's verdict on SC sub-category

LUCKNOW, 4 AUG

BSP chief and former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Mayawati on Sunday said her party doesn't agree with the recent Supreme Court's verdict allowing sub-classification within Scheduled Castes.

"The sub-classification of people within Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) has been permitted, our party doesn't agree with it at all," Mayawati said while addressing a press conference here.

In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court on Thursday held that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes, which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially and educationally more backward.

PHOTO: PTI

The former chief minister said, "We have appealed to the honourable Supreme Court to reconsider its decision, otherwise if the reservation facility given by the most revered Baba Saheb to make crores of Dalits and tribals stand on their feet in this country is abolished, it will become very difficult." — *PTI*

90 arrests made in UK as cops brace for more disorder

LONDON, 4 AUG

At least 90 arrests have been made across the UK, including in London, Hartlepool, Bristol, Belfast, Southport, Hull, Stoke-on-Trent and Liverpool, and some charges have been brought, with police warning of more to come once footage has been scoured. Keir Starmer held crisis talks with ministers on Saturday over the unrest, with justice secretary Shabana Mahmood telling colleagues "the whole justice system is ready to deliver convictions as quickly as possible", according to the PA news agency. Bricks, chairs and bottles have been pelted at officers, mosques have been attacked, and a police station along with a number of community facilities across the country, including a library, have been torched in the violence. *—The Guardian*

5 people wounded in overnight shooting in US

MILWAUKEE, 4 AUG

Five people were wounded in a shooting in Milwaukee early Saturday morning, according to police. Officers responded to the 3800 block of N Richards Street on the north side of the city at about 1.45am, the Milwaukee Police Department said in a statement. Those injured in the shooting were taken to the hospital and police said they are "expected to survive". Police did not identify the victims beyond their ages, which range from 28 to 40 years of age. The exact nature of the injuries was unknown. Authorities said police are searching for unknown suspects, but did not provide any additional information on the shooting. WISN-TV in Milwaukee reported that the shooting happened outside of a bar. *—AP*

PHOTO: BBC

World's biggest iceberg spins in ocean trap

MCMURDO STATION, 4 AUG

Something remarkable has happened to A23a, the world's biggest iceberg. For months now it has been spinning on the spot just north of Antarctica when really it should be racing along with Earth's most powerful ocean current. Scientists say the frozen block, which is more than twice the size of Greater London, has been captured on top of a huge rotating cylinder of water. It's a phenomenon oceanographers call a Taylor Column - and it's possible A23a might not escape its jailer for years. The berg's longevity is well documented. It broke free from the Antarctic coastline way back in 1986, but then almost immediately got stuck in the bottom-muds of the Weddell Sea. *—BBC News*

Chinese social media bans Tibetan language

DHARAMSHALA, 4 AUG

The Tibetans living in Tibet and other parts of the world have expressed their concerns as the Chinese social media platform Douyin banned all content in the Tibetan language. The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) based in Dharamshala has strongly condemned this decision. Speaking to ANI, TCHRD Director, Tenzin Dawa, said that Douyin company's decision to ban content in the Tibetan language has made it impossible for Tibetan netizens who use these platforms to create content and make a living from these platforms. Tenzin Dawa said, "Recently we came across several videos of Tibetan netizens inside Tibet expressing strong discontent over the recent ban by Chinese company Douyin in China. So, Douyin company has resorted to banning, removing and censoring all content that speaks in the Tibetan language and that relates to Tibetan culture in general. *—ANI*

Strikes on Gaza kill 18 and stabbing in Israel kills 2

The strike killed many including a woman & injured others

TEL AVIV, 4 AUG

Israeli strikes early Sunday killed 18 people in Gaza, including four who were sheltering in a tent camp for displaced people inside a hospital complex, while a stabbing attack carried out by a Palestinian killed two people in a Tel Aviv suburb.

Tensions have soared following nearly 10 months of war in Gaza and the killing of two senior militants in separate strikes in Lebanon and Iran last week. Those killings brought threats of revenge from Iran and its allies and raised fears of an even more destructive regional war. A woman in her 70s and an 80-year-old man were killed in the stabbing attack, according to Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service and a nearby hospital, and two other men were wounded. The police said the attack was carried out by a Palestinian militant, who was "neutralised," and that a search was underway for other suspects. The rescuers said the wounded were found in three different locations, each about 500 metres apart, adding to concerns that more than one assailant was involved. Israel has been bracing for retaliation after the killing of a senior Hezbollah commander in a strike in Lebanon and Hamas' top political leader in an attack in Iran's capital last week. Both were linked to the ongoing war in Gaza, which was triggered by Hamas' 7 October attack. *—AP*

Palestinians react to fire from an Israeli strike that hit a tent area in the courtyard of Al Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir al Balah, Gaza Strip on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

Countries urge nationals to leave Lebanon

The US has urged its citizens to leave Lebanon on "any ticket available", as fears grow that war in the Middle East may spread. The UK, Sweden, France, Canada and Jordan have issued a similar warning. Iran has vowed "severe" retaliation against Israel, which it blames for the death of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on Wednesday. His assassination came hours after Israel killed Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr in Beirut. Footage posted on social media showed Israel's Iron Dome air defence system intercepting the rockets. *—BBC News*

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

It was reportedly one of four submarines operated by Russia's Black Sea fleet **PHOTO: @GLOBALNEWS99694**

Ukraine says it sank Russian submarine

MOSCOW, 4 AUG

Ukraine's military says it attacked and destroyed a Russian submarine while it was anchored at a port in the occupied Crimean peninsula.

The Rostov-on-Don, a kilo-class attack submarine launched in 2014, sank after it was struck in a missile attack on the port city of Sevastopol on Friday, Ukraine's general staff said in a statement.

It was reportedly one of four submarines operated by Russia's Black Sea fleet capable of launching Kalibr cruise missiles. The Russian defence ministry has not commented.

Officials in Kyiv said the attack also destroyed four S-400 air defence systems protecting the peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014.

Intelligence officials in the UK noted last September that the Rostov-on-Don "likely suffered catastrophic damage" in a missile strike while undergoing maintenance at a Sevastopol shipyard.

Ukraine's military said Russia subsequently repaired the vessel and it was recently testing its capabilities near Sevastopol. The vessel was worth $300m (£233m), they added.

Russian officials have said that Ukrainian forces overnight targeted multiple Russian regions with a massive drone barrage.

Russia's Defence Ministry said in a statement that its air defence systems "intercepted and destroyed" a total of 75 drones over a number of regions that lie on the border with Ukraine or not far from it, including Belgorod, Krasnodar, Kursk, Oryol, Rostov, Voronezh, and the Ryazan region deeper inside Russia. One of those drones was also shot down over the Azov sea, the statement said. *—BBC News/ AP*

Trump slams Georgia Republican Guv again

ATLANTA, 4 AUG

- Fans of Trump packed the same arena as Vice President Kamala Harris did four days, as both campaigns push hard in a state that Democrats and Republicans see as up for grabs yet again

Former president Donald Trump picked a new fight with Georgia's Republican Governor as he campaigned in the key swing State where he's looking to avenge his narrow 2020 loss — a defeat he continues to blame on Republican officials based on his false theories of election fraud.

Governor Brian Kemp, Trump wrote on his social media site, "should focus his efforts on fighting Crime, not fighting Unity and the Republican Party!" He also criticised Kemp's wife, Marty, and alleged that both Kemps were once grateful for his endorsement when Brian Kemp won the 2018 Governor's race.

Meanwhile, thousands of fans of Donald Trump packed the same Atlanta arena Saturday as Vice President Kamala Harris did four days earlier, as both campaigns push hard in a state that Democrats and Republicans see as up for grabs yet again.

Trump's event alongside his running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, comes just days after Harris rallied thousands in the same basketball arena at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Taking the stage first, Vance credited Trump with "exposing a massive coverup of the president's mental incapacity" during the fateful June debate that ultimately led to President Joe Biden 's exit from the 2024 campaign, before lighting into Harris as "a San Francisco liberal who is so far out of the mainstream" and someone he described as complicit in guarding Biden's true state from the public. *—AP*

Donald Trump **PHOTO: PTI**

Putin offers disaster aid to N Korea

SEOUL, 4 AUG

Russian President Vladimir Putin offered humanitarian assistance to help North Korea cope with damages from recent floods, both countries said, in another sign of expanding relations between the two nations.

In a message to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Saturday, Putin "extended deep sympathy and support" and conveyed his willingness to provide immediate disaster aid to help North Korea recover from the floods, the North's official Korean Central News Agency reported Sunday.

Ties between North Korea and Russia have been improving significantly amid widespread outside beliefs that North Korea has supplied conventional weapons to Russia for its war in Ukraine in return for military and economic assistance. During a meeting in Pyongyang, Kim and Putin signed a pact stipulating mutual military assistance if either country is attacked, in what was considered the two countries' biggest defence deal since the end of Cold War. *—AP*

Yemen's Houthi rebels hit container ship in first attack in two weeks

DUBAI, 4 AUG

A missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels struck a Liberian-flagged container ship travelling through the Gulf of Aden, authorities said Sunday, the first assault by the group since Israeli airstrikes targeted them.

The Houthis offered no explanation for the two-week pause in their attacks on shipping through the Red Sea corridor, which have seen similar slowdowns since the assaults began in November over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

But the resumption comes after the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran, the Houthis' main benefactor, amid renewed concerns over the war breaking out into a regional conflict. The attack on Saturday happened some 225 km (140 miles) southeast of Aden in a stretch of the Gulf of Aden that has seen numerous Houthi attacks previously. It hit the container ship Groton just above its waterline, causing minor damage, said the Joint Maritime Information Centre, a multinational coalition overseen by the US Navy. An earlier missile attack missed the vessel, the JMIC said.

PHOTO: X

"All crew on board are safe," the centre said. "The vessel was reported diverting to a port nearby." The Groton had left Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates bound for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The Groton's Greek managers did not respond to a request for comment.

Brig Gen Yahya Saree, a Houthi military spokesman, claimed the attack in a prerecorded statement Sunday afternoon. The rebels have targeted more than 70 vessels with missiles and drones in a campaign that has killed four sailors. They have seized one vessel and sunk two in the time since. Other missiles and drones have been either intercepted by a US-led coalition in the Red Sea or splashed down before reaching their targets. *—AP*

TURMOIL IN PAKISTAN

Army should apologise, says Pak ex-PM Imran

ISLAMABAD, 4 AUG

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has refused to apologise for the 9 May riots that erupted after his arrest last year and claimed that it was the Army that owed him an apology since he was "abducted" by the paramilitary rangers on the day of the violence.

Khan, 71, was on 9 May, 2023, arrested by the Pakistan Rangers from the Islamabad High Court premises during his appearance in a corruption case.

His arrest sparked countrywide protests and riots by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters who damaged civilian as well as military installations across the country.

Army Spokesman Major General Ahmed Sharif on 7 May this year said any dialogue with the PTI could happen if the party apologised for its "politics of anarchy".

The statement was followed by calls from different quarters that Khan founded PTI to apologise for the "Black Day" violence.

Khan he had no reason to apologise, further adding that he was arrested by the rangers headed by a serving major general from the premises of the Islamabad High Court. *—PTI*

Pak reports 12th polio case in 2024

ISLAMABAD, 4 AUG

Pakistan has reported the twelfth polio case of the year, double last year's total, jolting the country's efforts to eradicate the crippling disease, media reports said on Sunday.

The latest case was reported in Punjab province's Chakwal district on Saturday, the Dawn newspaper reported. The victim is a six-year-old male child from the district, the report said, quoting an official from the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication. The fresh case is the first in the Punjab province in four years and takes the country's tally to 12, double last year's total of six cases. "The latest victim is over six years old, indicating possible immunity-related issues," the official was quoted. *—PTI*

WEATHER CAUTION

Hurricane alert issued for part of Florida's coast

MIAMI, 4 AUG

A tropical depression strengthened into Tropical Storm Debby north of Cuba on Saturday and was predicted to become a hurricane as it moves through the Gulf of Mexico on a collision course with the Florida coast.

The National Hurricane Centre said in an update posted at 11pm on Saturday that Debby was located about 80km west-southwest of Dry Tortugas National Park in Florida and about 415km south-southwest of Tampa. The storm was moving northwest at 22 kph with maximum sustained winds of 75 kph.

Wind and thunderstorms have spread over a broad area including southern Florida, the Florida Keys and the Bahamas. A hurricane warning was in effect for sections of the state's coast with tropical storm warnings for the Florida Keys.

In this satellite imagery, Tropical Depression Four is shown. **PHOTO: NOAA**

Debby is likely to bring drenching rain and coastal flooding to much of Florida's Gulf Coast by Sunday night, and predictions show the system could come ashore as a hurricane Monday and cross over northern Florida into the Atlantic Ocean.

Debby is the fourth named storm of the 2024 Atlantic hurricane season after Tropical Storm Alberto, Hurricane Beryl and Tropical Storm Chris, all of which formed in June.

The National Hurricane Centre in Miami predicted that the system will strengthen as it curves off the southwest Florida coast, where the water has been extremely warm. Intensification was expected to proceed more quickly later on Sunday.

Some of the heaviest rains could actually come next week along the Atlantic Coast from Jacksonville, Florida, through coastal regions of Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. The storm is expected to slow down after making landfall.

Governor Ron DeSantis has declared a state of emergency for 61 of Florida's 67 counties, with the National Guard activating 3,000 guard members. *—AP*

INDIAN TEEN WHO FORGED RECORDS FOR US EDUCATION TO RETURN TO INDIA

NEW YORK, 4 AUG

A 19-year-old Indian student, who was arrested and charged with falsifying records to gain admission in a US university, will have to return to India under a plea deal entered into with American authorities.

Aryan Anand had submitted fake and falsified documents to secure admission into Lehigh University, a private research university in Pennsylvania for the 2023-2024 academic year.

A report in the Lehigh University's student newspaper 'The Brown and White', said last month that a police investigation had found that Anand had falsified admission and financial aid documents. He had even "faked his father's death" as part of the conspiracy to obtain admission and scholarship,

it said. Anand was arraigned by Magisterial District Judge Jordan Knisley on 12 June, with a bail of USD 25,000. He pleaded guilty to one count of forgery. As part of the plea deal, he was sentenced to one to three months in Northampton County Prison, "which amounted to a time-served sentence", lehighvalleylive.com quoted defence attorney Molly Heidorn as saying.

As part of the deal, Anand is required to return to India and Lehigh chose not to seek restitution of about USD 85,000. He was released to the custody of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Anand's forgery came to light after a post he shared on the social media site Reddit titled 'I have built my life and career on lies' prompted the investigation into his case. In that anonymous post, he had laid out the details of his fraudulent scheme. *—PTI*

India seeks duty concession in FTA with Sri Lanka

India also sought easier visa norms to facilitate entry of workers

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

India is seeking customs duty concession on a number of goods including cars, commercial vehicles and machinery from Sri Lanka under a comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA), talks for which are underway, an official said.

India has also sought easier visa norms to further facilitate entry of professionals from here, the official said.

The 14th round of talks between senior officials of India and Sri Lanka was concluded recently in Colombo.

Issues which came up for the talks included rules of origin, goods, services, and technical barriers for trade.

On the other hand, Sri Lanka has sought removal of a quota on apparel exports to India. The island nation is also asking for duty concessions on tea and certain agricultural commodities.

Sri Lanka sought removal of a quota on exports to India **PHOTO: PTI**

The official said that as elections are announced in Sri Lanka, the next round of negotiations between the two countries will be held after that.

The two nations have already implemented a free trade agreement in goods and now they are negotiating to expand the pact by including more goods and services.

- The 14th round of talks between senior officials of India and Sri Lanka was concluded recently in Colombo

The India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA) came into force in March 2000. It enhanced economic relations between the two countries by reducing tariffs on a wide range of goods.

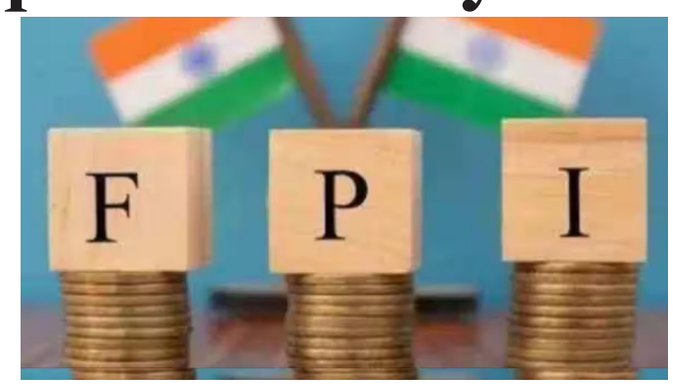
India's exports to Sri Lanka increased from USD 499.3 million in FY'2000 to USD 4.17 billion in 2023-24, a cumulative growth of 735.2 per cent. Meanwhile, imports grew from USD 44.3 million to USD 1.4 billion over the same period.

India's major imports from Sri Lanka in FY 2024 were coffee (USD 103.7 million), garments (USD 55.65 million), animal feed (USD 72.2 million), areca nut (USD 65.5 million), light pepper (USD 44.4 million), rough diamonds (USD 26.9 million), and rubber (USD 26.7 million). *—PTI*

MIXED TREND THIS WEEK

FPIs invest ₹32,365 crore in equities in July

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG



FPIs invested Rs 22,363 crore in the debt market **PHOTO: PTI**

Foreign investors infused Rs 32,365 crore into Indian equities in July on the back of expectation of continued policy reforms and sustained economic growth and better-than-expected earnings season.

However, they pulled Rs 1,027 crore from equities in the first two trading sessions of this month (August 1-2), data with the depositories showed.

There has been a mixed trend with respect to FPI flows following the budget announcement on increase in capital gains tax on equity investments.

Going forward, developments in the US economy and markets will set the trend for FPI in August, V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

According to the data with the depositories, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have made a net inflow of Rs 32,365 crore in equities in July. This came following an inflow Rs 26,565 crore in June driven by political stability and the sharp rebound in markets.

Before that, FPIs withdrew Rs 25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.

Additionally, upward revisions in India's GDP forecast by IMF and ADB, and a slowdown in China, also works in India's favour, he added.

Apart from equities, FPIs invested Rs 22,363 crore in the debt market in July. This has pushed the debt tally to Rs 94,628 crore this year so far. *—PTI*

Tourism spending to rise 11% annually to reach $55 billion

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Spending on outbound tourism is expected to grow from USD 18.82 billion in 2024 to USD 55.39 billion in 2034, a report said. The report said that availability of Indian or vegetarian food options as well as awareness about niche tourism will help increase the number and frequency of Indians engaging in foreign travel in the coming years. The market has already seen robust growth with rising disposable incomes, an expanding middle class, systemic ease and flexibility in obtaining visas, and a desire for international experiences. With the Indian outbound market expected to grow at a CAGR of 11.4 per cent and reach USD 55.39 billion by 2034, the outlook is positive with coordinated efforts by all stakeholders propelling the industry forward, report added. *—PTI*

Dairies to milk 13-14% revenue growth this year

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

India's dairy industry is expected to see healthy revenue growth of 13-14 per cent this financial year 2024-25, asserted Crisil Ratings, as strong consumer demand continues along with an improved supply of raw milk. While the rating agency believes the demand will be supported by rising consumption of value-added products, the ample milk supply will be driven by good monsoon prospects. A rise in raw milk supply will also lead to higher working capital requirements for dairy players. That, along with continued capital expenditure (capex) by organised dairies over the next two fiscals will result in debt levels inching up. Additionally, various measures such as genetic improvement in indigenous breeds and an increase in the fertility rate of higher yield. Steady milk procurement prices augur well for the profitability of dairies, and their operating profitability is expected to improve 40 basis points (100 basis points is equal to 1 percentage point) to 6 per cent this fiscal. *—ANI*

Warehousing and logistics absorption up 8% in H1 2024

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

The first half of the current year saw an 8 per cent increase in warehousing and logistics absorption, reaching 16.6 million sq ft, compared to the same period last year, according to the latest office market report from Vestian, a US-headquartered workplace solutions firm. The reduction is largely due to a significant 74 per cent dip in absorption in the NCR region, the report added. Mumbai and Pune together accounted for 63 per cent of the total absorption in the first half (H1) of the current year, followed by southern cities (Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad) at 29 per cent. Notably, Mumbai's share increased from 25 per cent in H1 2023 to 41 per cent 2024. *—PTI*

NO ALTERATIONS

RBI rate, global trends major factors for market this week

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

RBI interest rate decision, macroeconomic data and global trends would guide markets' movement this week, analysts said.

Besides, trading activity of foreign investors and the last batch of Q1 earnings announcements would also guide trends in equities.

HSBC PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) for the services sector is scheduled to be announced on Monday.

Bharti Airtel, BEML, ONGC, NHPC, Life Insurance Corporation of India, and MRF would announce their earnings this week.

"Going forward, the chances of further consolidation seem elevated due to premium valuations, weak Q1 results, and ongoing global market consolidation. The RBI policy meeting this week could provide some hints towards an outlook on rates, while expectations are to maintain the status quo as of now," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

PHOTO: PTI

Amid widespread selling pressure, the 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 885.60 points or 1.08 per cent to finish at 80,981.95 on Friday. The broader Nifty of NSE slipped 293.20 points or 1.17 per cent to end at 24,717.70.

Movement of global oil benchmark Brent crude and rupee-dollar trend would also dictate trends in the market. *—PTI*

RBI LIKELY TO KEEP INTEREST RATE UNCHANGED AT 6.5%

MUMBAI, 4 AUG

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to keep the key interest unchanged at 6.5 per cent on Thursday, and wait for more macroeconomic data before taking a call on rate cut in line with expectations, experts said.

The US Federal Reserve has decided to maintain a status quo on its interest rate for now and indicated there could be monetary policy easing in the coming months.

Amid persisting inflationary pressures, RBI will be closely tracking the US monetary policy trajectory before changing its stance on interest rate, which has remained unchanged since February 2023, experts opined. *—PTI*

IT majors Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys emerging as the biggest laggards **PHOTO: PTI**

Mcap of firms slump ₹1.28 lakh crore

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Eight of the top-10 most valued firms together lost Rs 1,28,913.5 crore in market valuation last week, with IT majors Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Infosys emerging as the biggest laggards, amid weak trend in equities.

The valuation of TCS tumbled Rs 37,971.83 crore to Rs 15,49,626.88 crore, the most among the top-10 firms.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Infosys tanked Rs 23,811.88 crore to Rs 7,56,250.47 crore.

ITC's mcap dropped by Rs 16,619.51 crore to Rs 6,11,423.11 crore and that of State Bank of India slumped by Rs 13,431.54 crore to Rs 7,56,717.85 crore.

The valuation of Reliance Industries Limited declined by Rs 13,125.49 crore to Rs 20,28,695.57 crore.

Bharti Airtel's market valuation went lower by Rs 11,821.5 crore to Rs 8,50,389.88 crore and that of ICICI Bank diminished by Rs 7,843.75 crore to Rs 8,42,176.78 crore.

The valuation of Hindustan Unilever dipped by Rs 4,288 crore to Rs 6,32,862.41 crore.

However, the mcap of HDFC Bank jumped Rs 32,759.37 crore to Rs 12,63,601.40 crore.

The valuation of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) soared Rs 1,075.25 crore to Rs 7,47,677.98 crore.

Last week, the BSE benchmark declinded by 350.77 points or 0.43 per cent.

In the ranking of the most valued firms, Reliance Industries retained the number one rank followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, LIC, Hindustan Unilever and ITC. —PTI

This demand surge will translate into an increase in capacity utilisation of the industry to 72 per cent in FY25 **PHOTO: PTI**

Rise in construction to boost India's cement demand by 7-8%

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Demand for cement is projected to grow 7-8 per cent in the current financial year, helped by an increase in construction activities throughout the country, UltraTech Cement said in its latest annual report.

To meet this increased demand, the cement industry is expected to add 35 - 40 million tonne capacity in the next fiscal, with 60-65 per cent concentrated in the eastern and southern regions, said the Aditya Birla group flagship firm.

Besides, this demand surge will translate into an increase in capacity utilisation of the industry to 72 per cent in FY25, which was around 68 per cent in FY23.

"In FY 2024-25, cement demand is projected to grow 7-8 per cent driven by an increase in construction activities throughout the country, spread across the infrastructure and housing sector," said UltraTech. *—PTI*

QIA, SBI funds, biggest buyers in Adani QIP

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

A unit of Qatar Investment Authority, SBI Mutual Fund, and foreign investment funds Nomura and Citigroup were the biggest buyers of shares in Adani group's power transmission unit's USD 1 billion QIP, according to a stock exchange by company.

The Rs 8,373.10 crore (USD 1 billion) qualified institutional placement (QIP) of Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL), which closed last week, saw over 120 investors seek shares in the firm that is into power transmission, distribution and smart metering business.

Billionaire Stanley Druckenmiller's family office-led investment firms were among the companies that sought shares of AESL in the QIP.

AESL in the filing said its board has approved allocation of over 8.57 crore shares to eligible qualified institutional buyers at the issue price of Rs 976 per share, reflecting a discount of Rs 51.11 (4.98 per cent) to the floor price of Rs 1,027.

QIA
جهاز قطر للإستثمار
QATAR INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

PHOTO: ANI

Adani Group has a history of introducing several long-only investors in the market. In the past years, it has brought large investors including GQG Partners and International Holding Company (IHC) besides QIA.

Other major global names that participated in the QIP include Blackrock, Jupiter Asset Management. *—PTI*

Better to get Chinese firms to invest in India: Niti member

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Arvind Virmani **PHOTO: ANI**

Niti Aayog member Arvind Virmani on Sunday said it is better for India to get Chinese firms to invest and produce goods here to boost local manufacturing than to keep importing goods from the neighbouring country.

Virmani was responding to a pitch made by the pre-budget Economic Survey on July 22 for seeking foreign direct investment (FDI) from China to boost local manufacturing and tap the export market.

The survey noted that India faces two choices to benefit from the 'China plus one strategy' -- it can integrate into China's supply chain or promote FDI from China.

China stands at the 22nd position with only 0.37 per cent share (USD 2.5 billion) in the total FDI equity inflow reported in India from April 2000 to March 2024.

The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

Following these tensions, India has banned over 200 Chinese mobile apps like TikTok, WeChat, and Alibaba's UC browser. The country has also rejected a major investment proposal from electric vehicle maker BYD.

However, earlier this year, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) cleared JSW Group's proposed acquisition of a 38 per cent stake in MG Motor India Pvt Ltd. *—PTI*

FLAG PILOT FATIGUE

Pilots' urges govt for revised duty norms

MUMBAI, 4 AUG

Raising concerns about pilot fatigue, pilots' grouping FIP has urged the civil aviation ministry to take steps for implementation of revised norms on flight duty and rest period at the earliest.

The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP), which has more than 6,000 members, had earlier also written to the civil aviation ministry on the revised CAR (Civil Aviation Requirement) for pilots DGCA postponed implementation.

The revised CAR related to flight duty time limitation seeks to provide more rest time for pilots amid rising concerns over pilot fatigue. In March, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) decided to postpone its implementation.

As many as 84 per cent of the pilots are concerned with the speed and direction of shift rotation **PHOTO: PIXABAY**

In a letter to Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu, FIP President CS Randhawa has requested him to direct DGCA to implement the revised CAR at the earliest.

"...the action of the DGCA not only endangers pilot safety but also undermines the safety of passengers, which the implementation of the revised CAR could prevent," the letter said, referring to the regulator's move to postpone implementation of the CAR.

The letter, dated 29 July, also claimed that the watchdog's failure to recognise the gravity of the fatigue issue not only jeopardises the lives of pilots but also gravely compromises the safety of the public.

On 26 March, DGCA deferred the implementation of the CAR that was to come into effect from 1 June. The decision had come less than two weeks after the regulator told airlines that the deadline would not be deferred.

As many as 84 per cent of the pilots are concerned with the speed and direction of shift rotation, while 83 per cent of respondents are worried about the onset of fatigue due to consecutive night flights, as per the study. *—PTI*

AAI spends ₹796 crore for repairs, maintenance works

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

PHOTO: PTI

Airports Authority of India (AAI) shelled out nearly 20 per cent higher amount of Rs 796 crore towards repairs and maintenance works of 101 airports in the last financial year, according to official data.

Since the fiscal 2021-22, AAI's expenditure towards these activities at the airports has been on the rise.

The amount rose to Rs 795.72 crore in the last financial year ended March 2024, from Rs 663.42 crore in 2022-23.

In 2021-22, the expenditure towards repairs and maintenance works was Rs 535.02 crore, as per the data shared by the civil aviation ministry with the Rajya Sabha.

The expenditure figures have been provided for 121 AAI airports, and out of them, no money in this regard was spent for 20 airports, according to the data.

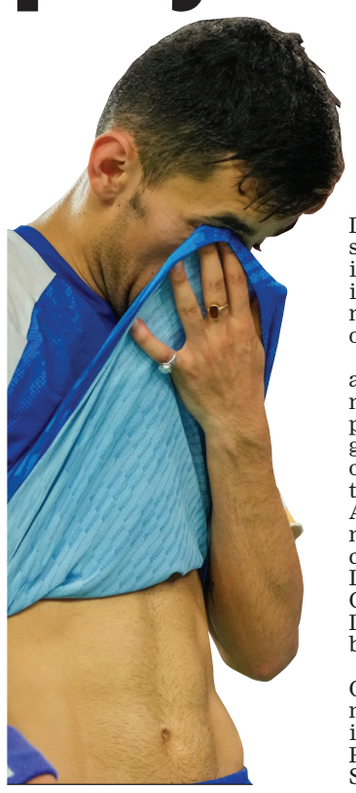
Concerns regarding maintenance of airport buildings came to the fore following the collapse of the forecourt canopy at Terminal 1D of the Delhi airport amid rains on June 28.

Also, the kerb area canopy made of tensile fabric got torn at Jabalpur Airport on June 27 and at Rajkot Airport. *—PTI*

COUNTRIES				
1. China	18	15	10	43
2. US	16	25	25	66
3. France	12	14	16	42
4. AuS	12	9	7	28
57. India	0	0	3	3

Sen falls to Axelsen, to play Bronze-medal playoff

Lakshya Sen will face Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia



PARIS, 4 AUG

India's dream of a first-ever Olympic gold in badminton will remain unfulfilled after Lakshya Sen suffered a straight-game defeat to reigning champion Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles semifinals at the Paris Games here on Sunday.

The 22-year-old from Almora, a world championships bronze medallist, squandered a three-point advantage in the first game and a 7-0 lead in the second to surrender 20-22 14-21 to the two-time world champion Axelsen in a 54-minute semifinal clash. Sen will get another chance to become the first Indian male shuttler to win an Olympic medal when he meets Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia in the bronze medal playoff.

India have never won an Olympic gold medal in badminton with PV Sindhu claiming a silver and bronze at the Rio and Tokyo editions and Saina Nehwal securing a bronze in the London Games. It was Sen's eighth loss to the Danish star with the Indian beating him only once at the 2022 German Open final.

Viktor Axelsen and Lakshya Sen at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

"If I would have closed the first game, then I would have had better chance of closing the match. In the second game also, I started well but couldn't keep the lead," Sen told the broadcaster after the contest. About losing the first game after being 20-17 ahead, Sen said "As the game went on, he started attacking more and I became passive, only defending. I should have taken chances and attacked more."

Axelsen thus made it to his second successive final at the Olympics and is now one step away from joining Chinese legend Lin Dan as a two-time gold medallist. Of all his previous losses, this will hurt Sen the most as he had the chance to deal the first blow on his fancied opponent, but instead, he wilted under pressure against the towering Dane, who always found a way to wriggle out of tricky situations.

The Indian kept the pressure on Axelsen and another fine cross-court and an on-the-line return gave him a two-point advantage. —*PTI*

Indian shooters miss finals in skeet & 25m rapid fire pistol event

CHATEAUROUX, 4 AUG

Indian shooters w and Anish Bhanwala gave a good account of themselves in the qualifications but could not enter the final of the 25m rapid fire men's pistol event at the Olympic Games here on Sunday.

Vijayveer and Anish shot brilliantly over two stages of qualification, staying in contention till the final 10 shots of the second rapid-fire stage, only to shoot scores of 92 and 93, finishing ninth and 13th respectively.

Only the top six shooters make the final cut.

In the women's skeet competition, Maheshwari Chauhan and Raiza Dhillon ended in 14th and 23rd place respectively in the qualification.

Maheshwari aggregated 118 across five series with the first three series taking place on Saturday. She recorded scores of 23, 24, 24, 25, 22. Raiza aggregated 113 after a sequence that read 21, 22, 23, 23, 24. —*PTI*

India's Vijayveer Sidhu competes in the 25m rapid fire pistol **PHOTO: PTI**

India's Maheshwari Chauhan **PHOTO: PTI**

Maheshwari, Raiza finish 14th and 23rd in women's skeet

CHATEAUROUX, 4 AUG

Indian shooters Maheshwari Chauhan and Raiza Dhillon ended in 14th and 23rd place respectively in the qualification of the women's skeet competition at the Paris Olympics here on Sunday. Maheshwari aggregated 118 across five series with the first three series taking place on Saturday. She recorded scores of 23, 24, 24, 25, 22.

Raiza aggregated 113 after a sequence that read 21, 22, 23, 23, 24. Only the top six shooters in the qualifications make it to the final. Italy's 2016 Rio Olympic gold medallist Diana Bacosi also failed to clear the qualifications, finishing just below Maheshwari at 15th place with a total of 117.

Maheshwari was closely following the leading pack at eighth position with an aggregate of 71. She had shot 23, 24, 24 and despite a 25 on Sunday, she could not make the cut. Raiza was placed 25th among 29 shooters with an aggregate of 66 (21, 22, 23). —*PTI*

Won't retire until I get Olympic medal: Deepika

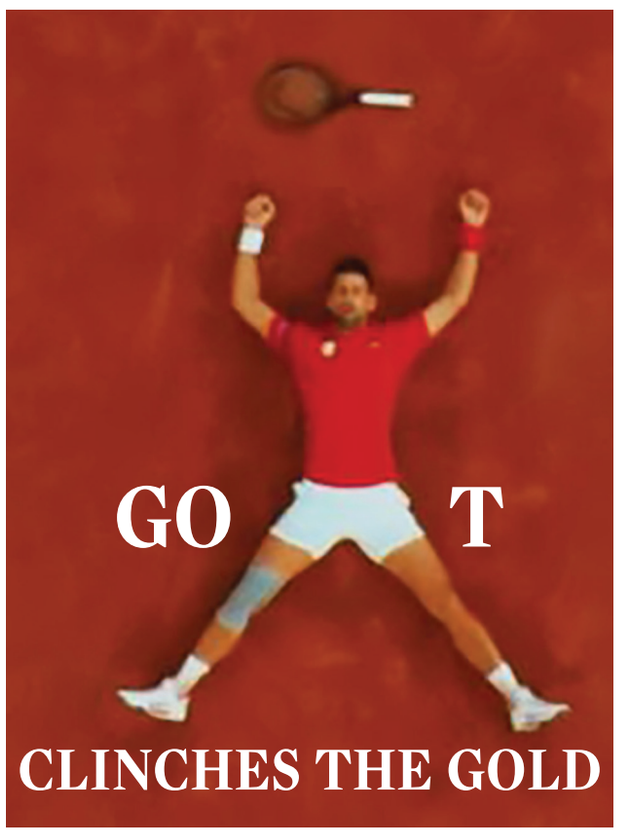
PARIS, 4 AUG

She has flattered to deceive for four straight Olympics but multiple World Cup medal winning archer Deepika Kumari has vowed not to quit unless she ends up on podium which she feels could be Los Angeles in four years' time. For Deepika, it has always been a case of not being able to display enough temperament in pressure situation at the grandest stage.

"Firstly, I will present myself more strongly. There are many things, like quick shooting, that I need to learn a bit more about, and it's very important to train myself accordingly. What I learned from the Olympics is that late shooting doesn't work; you have no room to make big mistakes, so you have to control that. I will learn that from here," she said.

"Obviously, I want to play more in the future and will continue my game," Deepika told PTI in an exclusive interaction at the India House here. —*PTI*

India's Deepika Kumari reacts after a shot during the archery individual quarterfinal against South Korea's Nam Su-hyeon in Paris **PHOTO: PTI**



Novac Djokovic during a rally **PHOTO: YESPUNJAB.COM**

PARIS, 4 AUG

Novak Djokovic beat Carlos Alcaraz in thrilling fashion to secure a long-awaited Olympic title and complete the career 'Golden Slam'.

Djokovic, arguably the Greatest Of All Time, who has won a men's record 24 majors and swept up every title there is in tennis, finally clinched Olympic gold at his fifth Games. The Serb put in his best performance of the year to beat French Open and Wimbledon champion Alcaraz 7-6 (7-3) 7-6 (7-2) in front of a packed crowd in Paris.

The 37-year-old turned towards his box, arms outstretched in disbelief, before throwing his racquet to the floor after a draining two hours and 52 minutes. After hugging Spain's Alcaraz, Djokovic immediately burst into tears and fell to his knees in the middle of the court.

He then unfurled a Serbian flag and clambered into the stands to celebrate with his family and support team. Djokovic is just the fifth player to win the 'Golden Slam' in singles - all four majors and the Olympic title - after Rafael Nadal, Serena Williams, Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf. "It was an incredible fight and I had to play my best tennis," an emotional Djokovic told Eurosport. —*BBC News*

KEY EVENTS

SHOOTING 12:30 PM

SKEET MIXED TEAM, QUALIFICATION

Anantjeet Singh Naruka, 26, Rajasthan

He won a silver medal in the men's skeet competition, with a score of 58/60.

Maheshwari Chauhan, 28, Uttar Pradesh

The 21-year-old secured the bronze on Day 5 at the 7th Asian Championship Shotgun in Astana, Kazakhstan.

TABLE TENNIS 1.30 PM

INDIA VS ROMANIA

Manika Batra

Archana Girish Kamath

Sreeja Akula

SAILING

WOMEN'S DINGHY, RACE 9 AND 10 | 3.45 PM AND 4.53 PM

Nethra Kumanan

MEN'S DINGHY, RACE 9 AND 10 | 6.10 AND 7.15 PM

Vishnu Saravanan

WRESTLING 06:30 PM

WOMEN'S FREESTYLE 68KG, 1/8 FINALS

Nisha Dahiya, 25, Haryana

She is the fifth Indian wrestler to make it to Paris.

ATHLETICS 10:34 PM

MEN'S 3000M STEEPLECHASE, ROUND 1

Avinash Sable, 29, Maharashtra

He holds the national record of 8:09.91, set at the 2024 Paris Diamond League where he finished at the 6th spot.

WOMEN'S 400M, ROUND 1 - 03:25 PM

Kiran Pahal, 23, Haryana

Pahal is the second athlete from India to go sub-51sec in 2024.

Free visa to all, if Neeraj wins Gold: Atlys CEO

NEW DELHI, 4 AUG

Mohak Nahta, CEO of Atlys, an online visa application service, has offered free visas to their users, anywhere in the world if Neeraj Chopra wins gold.

This offer didn't clarify how users could avail it. Taking to LinkedIn, the Indian-origin CEO of the startup wrote, "On 30th July, I promised everyone a free visa if Neeraj Chopra wins gold. Since a lot of you asked for details, here is how it will work. "If Neeraj makes it through the qualification stage, he will participate in the grand final on 8 August. He added that the citizens can travel all countries, wherever they choose to travel to next." "What do you need to do to avail this offer? Drop your email in the comments below and we will create an account for you with a free visa credit," he added. —*Salar News*

Taiwan's Lee Yang and Wang Chi-Lin retained their Olympic badminton men's doubles title on Sunday, beating China's Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang 21-17 18-21 21-19 at the Porte de La Chapelle arena in Paris in a gripping final **PHOTO: X/@BADMINTONUPDATE**

North Korea performs diplomatic gymnastics

PARIS 4 AUG

As the Paris gymnastics arena roared on American Simone Biles for her third gold medal of the 2024 Olympics, one of those applauding was none other than An Chang-ok, a rival from North Korea. Saturday's women's vault final saw the North share a stage with its foes South Korea and the US. An, 21, grinned and waved for TV cameras and hugged at least one fellow finalist - rare interactions with foreigners by a young woman required to perform diplomatic gymnastics while being carefully chaperoned on her trip away from home. Pyongyang's decision to send athletes to these Games – two of whom even posed for a selfie with rivals from the South - has raised hopes that the secretive state could be partially reopening after a particularly deep period of isolation. After all, this comes after a heated period that has seen the North sending waste-filled balloons at the South. —*BBC News*

Kroos wins Germany's player of the year

BERLIN, 4 AUG

Toni Kroos has been voted Germany's player of the year for the 2023-24 season. Meanwhile, Xabi Alonso won the coaching accolade for leading unbeaten Bayer Leverkusen to the Bundesliga title. The 34-year-old Kroos won the award organised by German sports magazine Kicker for the second time on Sunday after being voted player of the year in 2018. Kroos received 285 votes in the Kicker poll, ahead of Germany teammate Florian Wirtz of Leverkusen who received 246, and Swiss midfielder Granit Xhaka, also of Leverkusen, who received 66. Leverkusen's success — finally ending Bayern Munich's 11-year Bundesliga run and staying unbeaten in the league all season — ensured Alonso won Germany's coach of the year award for the first time. —*AP*

ENGLISH PREMIERE LEAGUE

Liverpool cruise past Manchester Utd in friendly

LIVERPOOL, 4 AUG

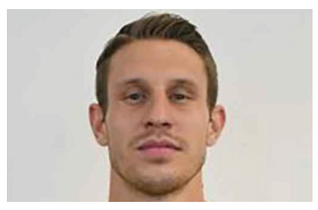
Liverpool completed their three-match US tour with a 100 per cent record as Arne Slot's side eased to an impressive 3-0 win against Manchester United in Columbia.

In front of a 77,559 crowd - the biggest at a non-US football match - at the Williams-Brice Stadium, Fabio Carvalho put Liverpool ahead after 10 minutes when he took advantage of some slack defending inside the area from Casemiro. The lead was doubled on 36 minutes when Mohamed Salah's excellent close control beat United youngster Toby Collyer on the touchline, with the Egypt forward bursting to the byline to set up Curtis Jones with a low cross.

A third came when Konstantinos Tsimikas seized on a loose ball in the 61st minute, scoring after Andre Onana failed to hold Diogo Jota's instinctive first-time effort. New manager Slot will know judgement on how he succeeds as Jurgen Klopp's replacement will not be based around pre-season games, but the former Feyenoord man will be delighted at the outcome of his side's Stateside trip before their Premier League opener against newly promoted Ipswich on 17 August.

In contrast, a difficult night for United was made even worse by what appeared to be a serious injury to young defender Will Fish, who left the field on a stretcher after coming off worst when he fouled Harvey Blair. —*BBC News*

Players celebrate after scoring the goal against Man City on Sunday in Liverpool **PHOTO: X @LFC**



Ivan Novoselec **PHOTO: YESPUNJAB**

Punjab FC sign Ivan Novoselec, Mushaga Bakenga

MOHALI, 4 AUG

Punjab FC on Sunday announced the signing of defender Ivan Novoselec of Croatia and striker Mushaga Bakenga of Norway ahead of the upcoming ISL season. The 29-year-old Novoselec last played for Tajikistan-based club FC Istiklol and won the Tajikistan Higher League. He also has vast experience playing for numerous Croatian clubs. As for Bakenga, the 31-year-old previously played for Cyprus-based Apollon Limassol. —*PTI*

Vandersay's 6/33 wrecks India as SL carve 32-run win

COLOMBO, 4 AUG

Leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay's magical six-wicket haul robbed the roar from Rohit Sharma's brutal fifty as Sri Lanka etched an emotional 32-run win over India in the second ODI here on Sunday.

Sri Lanka now lead the three-match series 1-0 after the first match ended in a tie. India were asked to chase down 241 on a pitch that had plenty of assistance for the spinners, and they ended up at 208 all out in 42.2 overs with Vandersay wrecking them with a haul of six for 33.

A different result loomed as long as skipper Rohit was at the crease, creaming the Lankan bowlers en route to his 64 off 44 balls (5x4, 4x6). Unmindful of the nature of the pitch, Rohit cut, swept and pulled spinners Dunith Wellalage and Akila Dananjaya and pacer Asitha Fernando to all parts of the ground in the company of a compact Shubman Gill (35, 44b) as India waltzed to 97 in just 13.3 overs.

Jeffrey Vandersay **PHOTO: PTI**

But a fatal reverse sweep off Vandersay that was taken by a diving Pathum Nissanka snapped Rohit's stay, and it also put the Indian batting unit in a tailspin.

The 97 for one became 116 for two in 17.1 overs and it transpired into even trickier 116 for three four balls later. But more shocks were in store for the Indians as they tumbled to 123 for four, 133 for five and eventually to 147 for six. That was six wickets for 50 runs in the span of 10 overs, and the dance of destruction was performed by one man -- Vandersay -- who came in as a replacement for injured Wanindu Hasaranga. —*PTI*